

ABSTRACT

HIGH THROUGHPUT OR CAPILLARY-BASED
SCREENING FOR A BIOACTIVITY OR BIOMOLECULE

5

The invention provides methods for isolating and maintaining a cell from a mixed population of uncultivated cells comprising encapsulating in a microenvironment at least a single cell from the mixed population; placing the encapsulated cell in a growth column; and incubating the encapsulated cell in the growth column under conditions allowing the encapsulated cell to survive and be maintained, thereby isolating and maintaining the cell. The invention also provides methods for identifying and enriching for a polynucleotide encoding an activity of interest.

15